

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Eric K. Mangiardi

Confirmation No. 4949

Application No. 10/674,972

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For: REMOVABLE BILIARY STENT

Group Art Unit: 3734

Examiner: Kevin Thao Truong

Attorney Docket No. 37621/52813

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

1. Pursuant to the duty of disclosure, documents listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 (or equivalent) are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

- ☒ Copies of listed U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are not required for submission. (37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(ii))
- ☒ Copies of listed foreign patent documents and/or non-patent literature are enclosed. (37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2))
- ☐ Copies of the documents listed at (sheet/cite no.) _____ of the attached Form PTO-1449 (or equivalent) are omitted because (1) they are already of record in U.S. Patent Application No. _____, filed _____, on which this application relies for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120; and (2) any information disclosure statement filed in the prosecution of Application No. _____, complies with 37 CFR §§ 1.98(a) through (c). (37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d))
- ☐ A copy of copending U.S. Patent Application No. _____, filed _____, for _____, listed at (sheet/cite no.) _____ of the attached Form PTO-1449 (or equivalent), ☐ is enclosed / ☐ is omitted. (Copy not required if available via IFW. 1287 OG 163 (Oct. 19, 2004).).

2. This information disclosure statement is being submitted (check box a., b., or c.):

- a. ☒ Within three months of the filing date of a national application or entry of the national stage in an international application; or before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits; or before the mailing of a first Office

action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114. (No statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) is required.); or

- b. ☐ After the period set forth in paragraph 2a, but before the mailing date of either a final action, a notice of allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. (Check box i. or ii.)
- i. ☐ The \$180.00 information disclosure statement submission fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is paid herewith, or
- ii. ☐ A statement specified by 37 CFR 1.97(e) is set forth below; or
- c. ☐ After the mailing date of a final action or notice of allowance and on or before payment of the issue fee. A statement specified by 37 CFR 1.97(e) is set forth below. Enclosed is the \$180.00 information disclosure statement processing fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).

3. Fee Payment

- a. ☐ A check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed.
- b. ☐ Payment by credit card.
- c. ☐ Please charge our Deposit Account No. 502375 in the amount of \$_____.
- d. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with filing of these papers, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502375.

4. If a statement specified by 37 CFR 1.97(e) is required, the attorney or agent signing below hereby states that:

- ☐ each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement; or
- ☐ no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

5. ☒ A concise explanation of the relevance of each document not in the English language and/or selected documents in the English language is set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Source: DE19754747A The device (10) consists of a mesh with polygonal cells (16) and is made of synthetic material or a thin metal wire. The areas (22,52,54,56,60,62) where the threads (18,19,20,21) meet are fixed with tubular rivets (28). First the threads (18,19,20,21) are joined in order to form a specific shape (12) like the inside of the gullet, wound around the cylindrical shaft (30) of the rivet (28) and then permanently fixed. The individual cells (16) of the mesh should be ideally wider at both ends (13,14) of the device and narrow in the middle to give maximum support. An independent claim for a method of manufacturing the stent is included.

FR2758253

Source: WO9830172A The invention concerns an expandable tubular device consisting of an assembly of radially expandable cylindrical elements, aligned along a common longitudinal axis and connected two by two successively by a plurality of connecting members spaced at an angle and coplanar with said cylindrical elements. The invention is characterised in that these connecting members (3) are capable of being elongated along the longitudinal axis to compensate the reduction in length of the cylindrical elements (2) when they expand radially; each connecting member (3) forming an undulation consisting of at least three elementary U-shaped portions mutually connected two by two successively in the opposite direction, and the free ends of which (3a, 3b) are respectively connected to two adjacent cylindrical elements (2). The invention is applicable to corporeal ducts and in particular to blood vessels with stenosis.

Source: EP1036550A The support device comprises a metal wire meshing (2,4), which can be expanded in a radial direction. The meshing has several projecting elements (10,12) on at least one axial end. The projecting elements are rod shaped, project in the axial direction, and extend the meshing. The elements have a thickening at their outer ends.